Formulation of agricultural strategy for foorgrains production

2664. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculturists' experts have pointed out that Government should formulate agricultural strategy at correcting imbalance in growth levels in various regions so as to achieve production of foodgrains required in the next 11 years;

(b) if so, whether any schemes for farm growth is being considered; and

(c) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The need for formulating agricultural strategy for correcting imbalances in the growth level and achieving the targets of food-grains production has been duly recognised. A number of schemes have been undertaken with emphasis on exploiting the growth potential of the various regions, in particular the less developed areas with a view to maximising foodgrains production. These include Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States, Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for increasing agricultural production, National Watershed Development Progamme in Rainfed Areas, National Pulses Development Programme and the Special Foodgrains Production Programme.

Besides, agricultural Planning is to be based on agro-climatic zones with a view to utilise the potential of the different regions of the country. These steps will contribute towards increasing foodgrains production and meeting the estimated requirements by 2000 A.D.

Boost to food processing sector

2665. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give further boost to the food processing sector;

(b) if so, what are the main points that are being considered in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to facilitate the entry of MRTP and FERA companies to join in a big way into several areas of food processing;

(d) if so, what are the facilities being provided to them; and

(e) what are the other measures being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A package of measures has been worked out in this regard. The salient points are contained in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIX Annexure No. 144].

(c) to (e) All food processing industries other than milk food, malted food and flour and all items of packaging for food processing industries but excluding the items reserved for small scale sector, have been placed in Appendix-I of the Industrial Policy.

All scheduled industries under 27(5) and 27(1) of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act have been broad banded except those items reserved for small scale industries.

In the budget proposal for 1989-90 a number of concessions in respect of excise duty and customs duties have been extended to the food processing industries.

Sugar mills in cooperative sector in Kerala

2666. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers and dealers were manufacturing and dumping sub-standard goods in the market;

(b) whether a draft notification viz the Andhra Pradesh Insecticides (Quality Control) Order, 1988 was forwarded to Central Government by State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 28th April, 1988 for obtaining concurrance of Government for the issue of the said order and the matter is still pending with Government: and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The Government has been receiving reports of the appearance of substandard goods in the market place from time to time In a large country with dispersed manufacture and where consumer's purchasing power and awareness is slowly building up, this affects production growth. It is difficult to make a precise assessment of the volume of such sub-standard products appearing at the Market place.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh Government had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive order, namely, the Andhra Pradesh Insecticides (Quality Control) order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act., 1955. Since the matters, envisaged to be regulated by the proposed special order of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are adequately covered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the State Government has been advised that the issuance of the said order would not serve such purpose.

(c) All Government agencies involved in the upgradation of quality of products and enforcing quality standards have been taking steps to combat this problem. The more important steps taken relate to:—

(i) Bringing under compulsory Certification Scheme products affecting safety and health of consumers;

(ii) Promoting voluntary certification and self-certification measures and creating quality culture in industry;

(iii) Taking legal action against erring manufacturers and traders who contravene provisions of legislations like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Essential Commodities Act, different Quality Control Orders, Drugs & Cocmetics Act, etc; and

(iv) Promoting a responsive and responsible consumer movement through provisions of Consumers Protection Act and redressal machinery laid down under this Act.

Sugar mills in cooperative sector in Kerala

2667. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the co-operative Sector in Kerala;

(b) the number of cooperative sugar mills in the State running in loss; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) There are two sugar mills in the cooperative sector in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Government do not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills. The sugar policy is announced by the Government of India from time to time. The profitability or otherwise of a sugar factory depends on a variety of factors which include cane availability, technical and managerial competence of a sugar mill and certain other factors which are not directly regulated by the sugar policy. The ultimate responsibility to ensure efficient running of a sugar mill lies solely with the management.

Grants to Kerala for sulm development

2668. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been given to the States for slum clearance in